

CELEBRATING HISTORY

1. How did different time periods/conventions affect the women in this book? How did they persist despite challenges?
2. What lessons can we learn from these women about fortitude and persistence?
3. How were the women in the book supported by other women and in turn paid it forward by supporting more women?
4. What are some of the common threads among all of the women in the book?
5. What was the impact of the female faculty and administrators on female students? Can you think of one example where a woman truly made a difference for a female student or students?

INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP

1. What are some of the common leadership traits among these women?
2. How has women's leadership changed today?
3. How is women's leadership the same today?
4. What is needed to help women in leadership?
5. What did these women make possible? Can you give one example of a figure in the book that opened doors for women today?



Professor of Nursing Helen Johnson in 1964 with the other faculty of the then new "Division of Applied Technology." *Right to left:* Charles Hutton, Gilbert Rainey, Charles Lawshe, James Maris, Denver Sams. Courtesy Purdue Archives and Special Collections.

TODAY'S RELEVANCE

1. How does this book differ from a book about male founders?
3. What do you think young women today would think of the women in this book?
4. What would young men of today think of the women in this book?
5. Who is the female founder you most admire, and why?
6. Who are today's female founders?



Helen Clark, one of the nation's leaders in the study of the world's nutrition problems, stands in front of students participating in her diet research program to study lysine requirements of men and women in October 1968. Courtesy Purdue University Archives and Special Collections.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Purdue's Female Founders: The Untold History of Trailblazing Women Faculty celebrates the fortitude and achievements of the foremothers of Purdue University.

It's a collection of profiles of women faculty who, despite profound roadblocks because of their gender, shaped the institution from its beginning in the late 1800s through the twentieth century.

These women persevered against the odds to follow their dreams to conduct research and teach; form departments, schools, and colleges; and blaze paths in a male-dominated culture.

Covering 125 years of university history told through the female lens, this book honors the many women who helped shape Purdue.



When Laura Anne Fry became a Purdue art professor in 1891, she was one of the most gifted artists of the nineteenth-century Women's Art movement and a patent holder for a revolutionary ceramic glazing technique used by Rookwood Pottery in Cincinnati. Courtesy Public Domain.

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Purdue's Female Founders

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PURDUE'S FEMALE FOUNDERS

Reading Group Topics

